

# Committee on Government Reform

Tom Davis, Chairman



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
October 1, 2003

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### **What if Isabel Met Tractor Man?** ***Government Reform Committee to Conduct Post-Hurricane Assessment of Emergency Readiness in the Capital Region***

**WHAT:** COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM OVERSIGHT HEARING:  
***“WHAT IF ISABEL MET TRACTOR MAN? A POST HURRICANE REASSESSMENT OF  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.”***

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003, 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** ROOM 2154 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

This hearing will examine the impact of Hurricane Isabel, and what lessons can be learned in terms of overall emergency readiness in the Capital region. It follows a hearing the Committee held on April 10, 2003 examining the state of emergency preparedness in the nation's Capital in the wake of the infamous “tractor man” standoff. The hurricane and our response to it offer an important opportunity to reassess our region's readiness for potential disasters of all types, including a terrorist attack. The region's preparation and response to events like Hurricane Isabel and the standoff on the Mall allow us to reassess and make sure plans are workable and will meet the needs of all those involved.

Invited witnesses will be asked to address the following:

- How were decisions made and what procedures are in place to assess the situation retrospectively?
- What implications are there for regional preparedness as a whole, in terms of transportation, power, water, and evacuation procedures?
- How were residents and businesses kept informed before, during and after the hurricane?
- How can the region better prepare and respond in the future?

**WITNESSES**

**Panel One**

Eric Tolbert, Director of the Response Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**Panel Two**

The Honorable John Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety, Commonwealth of Virginia

Dennis Schrader, Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, State of Maryland

Peter Laporte, Director, District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency, District of Columbia

**Panel Three**

Richard White, Chief Executive Officer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

William J. Sim, President, Pepco

Admiral Jay Johnson, President and CEO of Dominion Delivery, Dominion Virginia Power

Jerry N. Johnson, General Manager, DC Water and Sewer Authority

Charlie Crowder, Jr., General Manager, Fairfax County Water Authority *accompanied* by Jim Warfield, Executive Officer.

Leslie Violet, Treasurer, Belle View Condominiums Owners Association

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